

Amendments to the CLAIMS

1. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition containing a substance which inhibits the proliferation of synovial cells.

2. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the substance which inhibits the proliferation of synovial cells is an expression-inhibitory substance for Synoviolin.

3. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the expression-inhibitory substance for Synoviolin is a substance which inhibits the expression of a gene encoding hsHRD3.

4. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the substance which inhibits the expression of a gene encoding hsHRD3 is a siRNA or shRNA against the gene encoding hsHRD3.

5. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the gene encoding hsHRD3 contains a DNA selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) A DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) A DNA which hybridizes to a DNA complementary to a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions, and encodes a protein having hsHRD3 activity.

6. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the siRNA targets a portion of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the proliferation of synovial cells, ~~characterizing~~ comprising inhibiting the expression of hsHRD3 in synovial cells.

9. (Currently amended) A method of inducing apoptosis in synovial cells, cancer cells, leukemia or malignant tumors, ~~characterizing~~ comprising inhibiting the expression of hsHRD3 in the synovial cells.

10. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting collagen production in synovial cells, pulmonary fibrosis or hepatocirrhosis, ~~characterizing~~ comprising inhibiting the expression of hsHRD3 in synovial cells.

11. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting interleukin-6 production in at least one cell selected from the group consisting of synovial cells, cancer cells, leukemia cells, osteosarcoma cells, malignant tumor cells, immune system cells and osteoclast cells, ~~characterizing~~ comprising inhibiting the expression of hsHRD3 in synovial cells.

12. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the expression of hsHRD3 is inhibited by binding inhibition between hsHRD3 and Synoviolin.

13. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~ comprising a substance which inhibits interleukin-6 production.

14. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the substance which inhibits interleukin-6 production is an expression-inhibitory substance for Synoviolin.

15. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein the expression-inhibitory substance for Synoviolin is a substance which inhibits the expression of a gene encoding hsHRD3.

16. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15, wherein the substance which inhibits the expression of a gene encoding hsHRD3 is an siRNA or shRNA against the gene encoding hsHRD3.

17. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the gene encoding hsHRD3 ~~contains~~ comprises a DNA selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) A DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) A DNA which hybridizes to a DNA complementary to a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions, and encodes a protein having hsHRD3 activity.

18. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16, wherein the siRNA targets a portion of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) A method for treating a disease attributed to cellular hyperplasia, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 4.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said disease is at least one disease selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, fibrosis, arthritis, cancers, and cerebral neural diseases.

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23. (New) A method for treating a disease associated with interleukin-6 production, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 13 to 16.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said disease is at least one disease selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, multiple myeloma, Castleman's disease, Crohn's disease, systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and osteoporosis.

25. (New) A method for inhibiting an inflammatory reaction in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 13 to 16.